

## REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and objected to claims 3-9 as dependent from rejected base claims. Claim 1 has been cancelled and claim 2 has been amended to depend from claim 6. All of the remaining claims that previously depended from claim 1 have been amended to become independent claims by incorporating the limitations of claim 1. Thus, the scope of claim 3-9 has not changed, no further search should be required and claims 2-9 are now in condition for allowance.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 6/1/04

By: Richard A. Gollhofer  
Richard A. Gollhofer  
Registration No. 31,106

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)**  
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
on June 1, 2004  
By: Michaela Bryan  
Date: 6-1-04